



GRANT RECIPIENT
LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

YEAR
2009

COUNTY
LAKE

CATEGORY
LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

GRANT AWARD
\$20,000

LOCAL SHARE
\$20,000



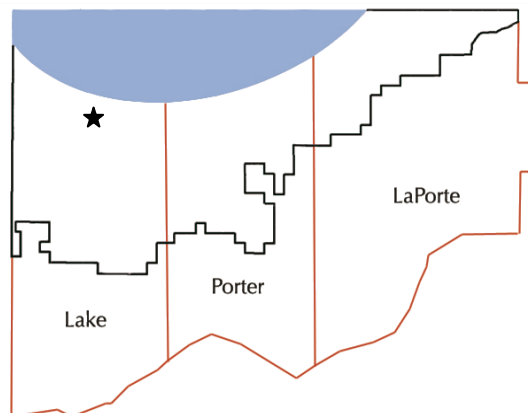
FOR MORE INFORMATION
Lake Michigan Coastal Program
1600 N 25 E
Chesterton, IN 46304
(219) 983-9912
www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich



Gibson Woods Nature Preserve

The Gibson Woods Nature Preserve is a state-dedicated nature preserve within Lake County. Gibson Woods Nature Preserve protects the very rare dune and swale topography formed thousands of years ago during the retreat of glacial Lake Chicago. The dune and swale located within Gibson Woods is the largest dune ridge in Indiana outside of the National Lakeshore. Ecological communities found here include: dry-mesic sand savanna with an over story of black oak and under story of bracken fern, mesic sand prairie dominated by big bluestem and tall coreopsis; and wet-mesic forest dominated by pin oak and speckled alder. The Lake County Parks Department has been actively restoring and maintaining the high-quality natural features of Gibson Woods Nature Preserve.

This natural area restoration and enhancement project has improved the black oak savanna and prairie plant communities by controlling invasive, woody plant species including exotic and aggressive native shrubs and trees. The project treatment area has ultimately restored approximately 10 acres of dune and swale topography. The management practices incorporated a combination of utilizing mechanical equipment with some delicate hand treatment restoration methods. Invasive shrubs and trees that were cut by hand were hauled out of the treatment area to improve restoration results.



RESULT: Improved and restored 10 acres of black oak savanna and prairie plant communities through invasive and aggressive native plant management.